

SHADOW SEEDS

The high school teacher spoke excitedly about Shakespeare. I listened, interested and encouraged.

"I think it's great," I said to another teacher, "that after 30 years this guy is still excited about his subject."

"Do you think he's excited about the subject," my friend said (who has known him for 20 years), "or the fact that he has an audience whom he knows he can influence?"

I countered with the parable of the field, and how if you pull up the weeds, sometimes you might also tear up the flowers. "Who can break down all of their motives into nice, neat recipe lists?" I asked.

But I knew
no matter what I said
that shadow seeds were planted in my brain
and dark tree clouds would always partially block
the glow of enthusiasm that shown in that
30-year-man's eyes.

— Paul Agostino

Holbrook NY

30th PERSONA(fication)

soMe women still
cAn not
underStand how, with
a beauty like hers, she
couLd be
so unhappY
wheN such a beauty is all
they've ever dreamEd
abOut, all they've
ever waNted ... (even
in theiR dreams they
can nOt
undErstand such a curse)